Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 230, 234, 236-238, 241, 244, 245, 247, 248, 251, 252 and 254-256 to read as follows.

230. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a connection unit, arranged for connecting a detachable external device to said information processing apparatus;

a recognition unit, arranged for recognizing connection of the external device to said information processing apparatus;

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating a device type of the external device connected by said connection unit on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading unit, arranged for, in response to said recognition unit recognizing connection of the external device, ~~selecting~~ determining selection of a device driver program provided in the external device, for controlling the connected external device, or a device driver program existing in a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, for controlling the connected external device, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the selected device driver program.

231. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a control unit arranged for controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program loaded by said loading unit.

232. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a reading unit arranged for reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read by said reading unit.

233. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 230, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

234. (Currently amended) A method of loading a device driver program for controlling an external device detachably connected to an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, ~~selecting the~~ determining selection of a device driver program provided in the external device or ~~the~~ a device driver program existing in a

memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, and loading the selected device driver program.

235. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 234, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program loaded in said loading step.

236. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method according to claim 234, further comprising a reading step of reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read in said reading step.

237. (Currently amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

a recognizing step of recognizing connection of an external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, ~~selecting~~ determining selection of a device driver program provided in the external device or ~~the~~ a device driver program existing in a

memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, and loading the selected device driver program.

238. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading unit, arranged for selecting the device driver program for controlling the external device in the memory provided in the external device or ~~the~~ a device driver program in a memory provided in said information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

239. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 238, further comprising a recognition unit arranged for recognizing connection of the external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type in response to said recognition unit recognizing the connection of the external device.

240. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type based on data stored in the external device.

241. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said loading unit loads the device driver program for controlling the external device from ~~a~~ the memory provided in said information processing apparatus if said discrimination unit discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

242. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

243. (Previously presented) An information processing apparatus comprising a processor unit, arranged for performing:

a discriminating step of discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading step of loading the device driver program for controlling the external device from the memory provided in the external device if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the first type of device.

244. (Currently amended) A method of loading a device driver program for controlling an external device, comprising:

a discriminating step of discriminating whether the external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing the device driver program or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading step of selecting the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device or the device driver program in a memory provided in ~~the~~ an information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

245. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 244, further comprising a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to ~~an~~ the information processing apparatus, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type in response to said recognizing step recognizing the connection of the external device.

246. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 244, further comprising a reading step of reading data stored in the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type based on the read data.

247. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 244, wherein said loading step loads the device driver program for controlling the external device from ~~a~~ the memory provided in ~~an~~ the information processing apparatus if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

248. (Currently amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

a discriminating step of discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading step of selecting the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device or ~~the~~ a device driver program in a memory provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

249. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 248, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to the information

processing apparatus, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type in response to said recognizing step recognizing the connection of the external device.

250. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 248, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a reading step of reading data stored in the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type based on the read data.

251. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 248, wherein said loading step comprises loading the device driver program for controlling the external device from ~~a~~ the memory provided in the information processing apparatus if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

252. (Currently amended) A device detachably connected to an information processing apparatus, said device comprising:

a memory unit, arranged for storing information which indicates a device type of said device and storing a device driver program for controlling said device, wherein the information processing apparatus discriminates the device type of said device on the basis of the information stored in said memory unit, ~~selects~~ determines selection of the device driver program stored in said memory unit or a device driver program for controlling said device stored in the information processing apparatus based on the

discrimination, and loads the device driver program from said device into the information processing apparatus if the driver program stored in said memory unit is selected.

253. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 252, wherein the information processing apparatus discriminates whether said device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing the device driver program or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided on the basis of the information stored in said memory unit.

254. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating a device type of an external device on the basis of data stored in the external device; and

a loading unit, arranged for ~~selecting~~ determining selection of a device driver program for controlling the external device in the external device or a device driver program for controlling the external device in a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the selected device driver program.

255. (Currently amended) A method of loading a device program for controlling an external device, said method comprising:

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the external device on the basis of data stored in the external device; and

a loading step of ~~selecting~~ determining selection of the device driver program in the external device or the device driver program in a memory area provided in ~~the~~ an information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the selected device driver program.

256. (Currently amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of an external device on the basis of data stored in the external device; and

a loading step of ~~selecting the~~ determining selection of a device driver program in the external device or ~~the~~ a device driver program in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the selected device driver program.